

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03
OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 ICA-11 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 INR-10 IO-13 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01
STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 H-01 NSC-05 EA-10
NEA-11 /147 W

-----049568 091201Z /46

R 091010Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5448

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 2323

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD ICCO CM

SUBJECT: CAMEROON AND RENEGOTIATION OF INTERNATIONAL COCOA
AGREEMENT

REF: A. LONDON 4614; B. LONDON 4403

1. AS FOLLOW-UP TO DAS FRANK MEETINGS WITH GURC MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FINANCE, EMBOFF CALLED ON BOBBO HAMATOUKOUR,
DIRECTOR OF BASIC PRODUCTS, MINISTRY OF CONOMY AND PLAN TO DISCUSS
COMMON FUND. DURING CONVERSATION HAMATOUKOUR DISPLAYED LITTLE
INTEREST IN COMMON FUND BUT SEIZED OPPORTUNITY TO QUERY EMBOFF ON
U.S. POSITION WITH REGARD INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT. EMBOFF
INFORMED HAMATOUKOUR THAT HE UNDERSTOOD AGREEMENT NOW UP FOR
RENEGOTIATION AND THAT DAS FRANK HAD TOLD MINISTER OF FINANCE
YONDO THAT U.S. WILLING TO PARTICIPATE. HAMATOUKOUR STATED
HE GRATIFIED TO HEAR THIS NEWS AND URGED THAT U.S. BE ACTIVE
PARTICIPANT IN NEGOTIATIONS. HAMATOUKOUR SAID THAT U.S. WAS
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BASICALLY AN OBSERVER DURING NEGOTIATION OF PRESENT AGREEMENT
AND DID NOT MAKE ITS POSITION KNOWN UNTIL VIRTUALLY THE
ELEVENTH HOUR. AT THAT POINT, ACCORDING TO HAMATOUKOUR,
IT WAS TOO LATE TO CHANGE DRAFT OF AGREEMENT TO MEET U.S.
POSITION AND THEREFORE U.S. DID NOT JOIN. HAMATOUKOUR
INDICATED BUT DID NOT EXPLICITLY STATE, THAT HE BELIVED
GURC AT LEAST WILLING CONSIDER MODIFYING AGREEMENT AS NECESSARY

IN ORDER TO INCLUDE U.S.

2. COMMENT: DURING JANUARY "GOODWILL VISIT" OF MEMBERS OF CHOCOLATE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF U.S. (CMA) EMBASSY RECEIVED DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT CMA IS OPPOSED U.S. ENTRY INTO INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT UNDER VIRUTALLY ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. FURTHERMORE, WE UNDERSTAND THAT ANY AGREEMENT USG MIGHT ADHERE TO WOULD HAVE TO HAVE SUPPORT OF CMA IN ORDER TO GET THROUGH CONGRESS. NEVERTHELESS, FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, CURRENT SITUATION PRESENTS GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR U.S. TO JOIN AGREEMENT ON ITS OWN TERMS. IN THE FUTURE, FOLLOWING FORMATION COMMON FUND, OUR NON-PARTICIPATION WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY EMBARRASSING, AND IT IS LIKELY THAT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE AS ADVANTAGOUS ENTRY TERMS. FROM CAMEROONIAN POINT OF VIEW, U.S. SIGNING OF AGREEMENT WOULD BE MOST TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF OUR COMMITMENT TO NIEO. THEREFORE, WE HOPE THAT USG HAS SUBMITTED ITS PROPOSALS AND COMMENTS RELATING TO A NEW AGREEMENT AS REQUESTED BY AD HOC COMMITTEE (REF A). FURTHERMORE, WE URGE THAT USG NOTIFY ICO OF ITS INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN NEGOTIATIONS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE CURRENT U.S. POLICY WITH REGARD INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT. NITHOEFER

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Message Attributes

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